

1 June 1986

MGF-009-86

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Gulf Bureau--May 1986

## I. GENERAL

The message from the Director and the Chief of Operations on the decision to close Gulf Bureau this summer was conveyed to all employees in a general meeting held in the bureau chief's office on 17 May. Understandably, the initial reaction to the announcement was one of shock and stunned silence. Each employee met privately with the bureau chief over the next few days to discuss his/her interest in and prospects for continuing with FBIS at another post. It was gratifying to hear that nearly all enjoyed their work and were willing to transfer, but unfortunately only a few could be offered positions at another bureau. Planning for the phasedown of bureau operations and the transfer or separation of employees has been the main preoccupation of the bureau administration.

The Government of Bahrain was informed of the closure decision a few days later, first by Ambassador Leidel in a meeting with the foreign minister, and then through the information minister, the bureau's official sponsor, in a meeting with the ambassador and the bureau chief. Discussions with embassy officers have also begun about employment prospects for those who will not be transferred, termination of leases, shipment of household effects and bureau equipment, and disposal of other property.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. On 18 May LD/BBC resumed coverage of the Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT newscast, and SPA Arabic from 2000 to 2030 GMT, which Gulf Bureau had covered since 15 April in connection with the former's expanded coverage of Libyan media.

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2. The Bahrain-Qatar dispute over Fasht al-Dibal shoal entered its second month, with other GCC countries, led by Saudi Arabia, increasing their efforts to mediate and resolve the issue. Qatar continued to hold the foreign workers removed from the shoal on 26 April until 12 May, when they were unexpectedly released and returned to Bahrain. On 25 May a GCC supervision and monitoring commission, set up to deal with the dispute, began its work. Fortunately, the dispute has not erupted into armed conflict, and both Bahrain and Qatar reportedly have agreed not to resort to the use of force and to return to the situation which existed prior to the 26 April incident. Mediation will, however, continue to find a final solution to the issue.

3. Following several years of nonmonitorability, on 8 May the bureau once again monitored live proceedings of the Iranian Majlis. The sessions are being heard on FM (104.4 MHz) relayed via Bandar 'Abbas. The bureau is covering the sessions and will process the proceedings on merit.

4. On 2 May, at the request of Nicosia Bureau, Gulf Bureau assumed coverage of Moscow in Persian to Iran during their Persian monitor's leave.

5. The Holy month of Ramadan was ushered in on 9 May in Muslim countries in the Arabian Gulf, and in Iran on 10 May. Numerous programming changes have been observed, with some newscasts and programs being dropped, and others being aired at a later time than usual.

#### B. Special Services

1. On 14 May the American Embassy in Riyadh requested the bureau's assistance in checking FBIS monitored Iranian sources for a possible reference by Iranian President Khamene'i on 9 May suggesting that "Iran would ease off its attacks on Saudi shipping". A check of items filed and program summaries prepared for that day and several days before and after that date revealed on such remark. The bureau alerted FBIS London to the request, which also answered in the negative. The embassy expressed its thanks for our "quick and helpful responses".

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### III. VISITS

#### To the Bureau

Mr. Nabeel Al-Hamer, General Manager of the Gulf News Agency, on 31 May.

#### From the Bureau

Bureau Chief  accompanied Ambassador Leidel for a call on Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyid on 26 May to inform him of the decision to close the bureau.

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Chief, Gulf Bureau

ATT: Monthly Production Report

## GULF BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MAY 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH	:	199,440
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH	:	94,260
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH	:	579

	BROAD CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
<u>II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (MINUTES OR ISSUES PER WEEK)	14,079	14,540	184.5

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III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:  
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)
 

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AFGHANISTAN

KABUL INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ARABIC	-0-
KABUL IN ENGLISH TO SOUTH ASIA	570

BAHRAIN

MANAMA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ARABIC	-0-
MANAMA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	-0-
MANAMA TELEVISION SERVICE IN ARABIC	140
MANAMA WAKH IN ARABIC	15,660
MANAMA WAKH IN ENGLISH	7,380
MANAMA AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ IN ARABIC	1,230
MANAMA AL-ADWA' IN ARABIC	450
MANAMA AL-MAWAQIF IN ARABIC	-0-
MANAMA SADA AL-USBU' IN ARABIC	-0-
MANAMA GULF DAILY NEWS IN ENGLISH	5,740
MANAMA GULF MIRROR IN ENGLISH	-0-

CLANDESTINE

(CLANDESTINE) VOICE OF ISLAMIC REVOLUTION OF AFGHANISTAN IN DARI	-0-
(CLANDESTINE) VOICE OF ISLAMIC REVOLUTION OF AFGHANISTAN IN PASHTO	-0-
(CLANDESTINE) VOICE OF AL-AHVAZ REVOLUTION IN ARABIC	-0-

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(CLANDESTINE) FREE VOICE OF IRAN	
IN PERSIAN	300
(CLANDESTINE) VOICE OF MOJAHED	
IN PERSIAN	-0-
(CLANDESTINE) RADIO IRAN IN	
PERSIAN	450
(CLANDESTINE) VOICE OF THE	
LIBERATION OF IRAN IN PERSIAN	2,310
(CLANDESTINE) NATIONAL VOICE OF	
IRAN IN PERSIAN	-0-

IRAN

TEHRAN INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
IN ARABIC	10,670
TEHRAN TELEVISION SERVICE	
IN ARABIC	1,310
TEHRAN INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
IN RUSSIAN	240
TEHRAN INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
IN TURKISH	7,640
MASHHAD INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
IN DARI	-0-
MASHHAD INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
IN PASHTO	-0-
TABRIZ INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
IN AZERI	-0-
TEHRAN DOMESTIC SERVICE	
IN PERSIAN	20,570
TEHRAN TELEVISION SERVICE	
IN PERSIAN	570
TEHRAN TELEVISION SERVICE	
IN ENGLISH	-0-
AHVAZ DOMESTIC SERVICE	
IN PERSIAN	960
BANDAR 'ABBAS DOMESTIC SERVICE	
IN PERSIAN	320
BUSHEHR DOMESTIC SERVICE	
IN PERSIAN	270
SHIRAZ DOMESTIC SERVICE	
IN PERSIAN	-0-
TABRIZ DOMESTIC SERVICE	
IN ARMENIAN	-0-
TABRIZ DOMESTIC SERVICE	
IN AZERI	-0-
TEHRAN IRNA IN	
ARABIC	-0-
TEHRAN AL-SHAHID	
IN ARABIC	-0-
TEHRAN KEYHAN AL-'ARABI	
IN ARABIC	-0-

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TEHRAN JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI		
IN PERSIAN		-0-
TEHRAN KEYHAN IN		
PERSIAN		1,900

IRAQ

BAGHDAD TELEVISION SERVICE		
IN PERSIAN	230	
BAGHDAD DOMESTIC SERVICE		
IN ARABIC	970	

KUWAIT

KUWAIT DOMESTIC SERVICE		
IN ARABIC	-0-	
KUWAIT AL-ANBA'		
IN ARABIC		680
KUWAIT AL-QABAS		
IN ARABIC		4,690
KUWAIT AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM		
IN ARABIC		900
KUWAIT AL-SIYASAH IN		
ARABIC		1,390
KUWAIT AL-WATAN		
IN ARABIC		1,130
KUWAIT ARAB TIMES IN		
ENGLISH		3,720

OMAN

MUSCAT DOMESTIC SERVICE		
IN ARABIC	3,010	
SALALAH DOMESTIC SERVICE		
IN ARABIC	970	
MUSCAT 'UMAN IN		
ARABIC		490
MUSCAT 'UMMAN AL-USBU'I		
IN ARABIC		-0-
MUSCAT QNA IN		
ARABIC	490	

PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD THE MUSLIM		
IN ENGLISH		450
KARACHI DAWN		
IN ENGLISH		2,220
KARACHI JASARAT IN		
URDU		-0-
KARACHI MASHRIQ IN		
URDU		150

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KARACHI NAWA-E WAQT		
IN URDU		-0-
LAHORE JANG IN		
URDU		1,240
RAWALPINDI HAIDAR IN		
URDU		1,580
RAWALPINDI THE PAKISTAN TIMES		
IN ENGLISH		-0-

QATAR

DOHA DOMESTIC SERVICE		
IN ARABIC	560	
DOHA TELEVISION SERVICE		
IN ARABIC	-0-	
DOHA QNA IN		
ARABIC		6,220

SAUDI ARABIA

JEDDAH DOMESTIC SERVICE		
IN ARABIC	2,000	
RIYADH DOMESTIC SERVICE		
IN ARABIC	8,550	
RIYADH TELEVISION SERVICE		
IN ARABIC	1,010	
RIYADH TELEVISION SERVICE		
IN ENGLISH	-0-	
RIYADH SPA IN		
ARABIC		8,240
AL-DAMMAM AL-YAWM IN		
ARABIC		-0-
JEDDAH AL-MADINAH IN		
ARABIC		-0-
RIYADH AL-RIYAD IN		
ARABIC		570

SUDAN

OMDURMAN DOMESTIC SERVICE		
IN ARABIC	-0-	
KHARTOUM SUNA IN		
ARABIC		-0-

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

MOSCOW IN PERSIAN TO		
IRAN	2,620	
BAKU INTERNATIONAL SERVICE		
IN PERSIAN	640	
BAKU INTERNATIONAL SERVICE		
IN AZERI	3,400	
DUSHANBE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE		
IN PERSIAN	-0-	
TASHKENT INTERNATIONAL SERVICE		
IN PERSIAN	-0-	
TASHKENT INTERNATIONAL SERVICE		
IN UIGHUR	-0-	
TASHKENT INTERNATIONAL SERVICE		
IN UZBEK	260	
YEREVAN INTERNATIONAL SERVICE		
IN ARMENIAN	-0-	
ALMA-ATA DOMESTIC SERVICE		
IN RUSSIAN	-0-	

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ASHKHABAD DOMESTIC SERVICE	
IN RUSSIAN	160
ASHKHABAD DOMESTIC SERVICE	
IN TURKMEN	-0-
BAKU DOMESTIC SERVICE	
IN AZERI	3,980
BAKU DOMESTIC SERVICE	
IN RUSSIAN	-0-
DUSHANBE DOMESTIC SERVICE	
IN RUSSIAN	-0-
TASHKENT DOMESTIC SERVICE	
IN RUSSIAN	-0-
TASHKENT DOMESTIC SERVICE	
IN UZBEK	6,920
YEREVAN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN	
ARMENIAN	-0-

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

ABU DHABI DOMESTIC SERVICE	
IN ARABIC	1,880
DUBAYY DOMESTIC SERVICE	
IN ARABIC	220
ABU DHABI WAM	
IN ARABIC	5,720
ABU DHABI AL-ITTIHAD	
IN ARABIC	9,040
ABU DHABI AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I	
IN ARABIC	820
AL-SHARIQAH AL-KHALIJ	
IN ARABIC	3,330
DUBAYY AL-BAYAN	
IN ARABIC	6,530
DUBAYY KHALEEJ TIMES	
IN ENGLISH	2,630

UNITED KINGDOM

LONDON AL-MAJALIS	
IN ARABIC	-0-
LONDON ASGHAR AQA	
IN PERSIAN	-0-
LONDON KEYHAN IN	
PERSIAN	5,130

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
OF YEMEN (PDRY)

ADEN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN	
ARABIC	10,130
ADEN VOICE OF PALESTINE	
IN ARABIC	1,930
ADEN ANA IN	
ARABIC	-0-

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC (YAR)

SANAA DOMESTIC SERVICE	
IN ARABIC	2,170
SANAA VOICE OF PALESTINE	
IN ARABIC	1,790
SANAA AL-THAWRAH	
IN ARABIC	-0-